

FIRE DAMAGES COURT

Menaces Historic Furnishings of Supreme Bench Trial Room

Retiring room destroyed

A fire in City Hall last night destroyed the dining room and retiring room attached to the Supreme Court building. Investigation today showed, however, that the courtroom had escaped serious damage.

Expensive tapestries and paintings of historic value in the courtroom were threatened by the flames, but when the fire was extinguished the chamber was found to be in a state of ruin. A heavy coat of dust, the result of a fire in the dining room, had escaped serious damage. The dining room is Room 452 and the courtroom is Room 454.

The fire, which started about 8 o'clock last night, is believed to have been caused by a crossed wire running to an electric store in the dining room, which has an entrance into the main courtroom.

Walls and the woodwork of the dining room were badly damaged. Firemen tore down the plaster on the dining room walls, which created a dust which drifted through the main court. The damage is estimated at about \$10,000. The wall which separates Rooms 452 and 454 became heated, and a small quantity of plaster fell from the ceiling of the court chamber. One chair was also badly scorched.

A fire of a dozen men was put to work at once and soon had the courtroom restored to its former condition.

When firemen arrived they found the dining room a mass of flames. The fire of the gowns of the jurists, which were hanging there, were burning briskly. Some of these were pulled through the doorway, and the firemen directed their efforts to saving the law library from damage as well as valuable records in the office of the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court.

More than an hour the firemen struggled against dense smoke that, in confined spaces of the hall's interior, was choking and gasping for breath. Two men, however, were discovered and with them all the furnishings, including the chairs, the huge oak desk, the counsel table and the heavy mahogany benches. It was in the dining room, the half of the retiring room nearest to the windows, that the greatest loss was sustained.

The two men, the findings of distinguished Chief Justices of the past: D. Newell Fell, 1910-1915; Thomas Smith, 1745-1809; William Augustus Schuylkill, 1745-1792; Francis Williams, 1808-1877, and William Strong, 1807-1868. They were damaged beyond hope of restoration, the firemen said.

Director Cortelyou, who was in City Hall when the fire broke out, reported the police arrangements and he and Ross Davis, fire chief, afterward conducted an informal investigation to determine the origin of the blaze.



The photograph taken in south corridor of the fourth floor of City Hall shows part of damage done by \$10,000 fire in retiring room and dining room of the State Supreme Court. The courtroom itself was not damaged.

SOCIALIST MAYOR LOSES BITTER CONTEST AT POLLS

Invalids Leave Beds to Vote in Haverhill, Mass., Election

Haverhill, Mass., Dec. 6.—(By A. P.)—Parkman E. Flanders, Socialist Mayor for the last two years, who was opposed for re-election by the Shoe Manufacturers' Association on the ground that a Socialist would injure the city's business reputation, was defeated yesterday by Dr. William McAfee.

A vote of a dozen men was put to work at once and soon had the courtroom restored to its former condition.

MAYOR SIGNS CONTRACTS

Work on Playgrounds and Centers Totals \$50,000

Contracts for architectural and construction work on playgrounds and recreation centers were signed by Mayor Moore today.

The largest contract, amounting to \$21,000, was issued to C. A. Conan for construction work at the Mill Creek playground. Other contracts signed by the Mayor were:

William Earley & Sons, \$5,500, installation of a vapor heating system in the club building and gymnasium at the Fenwick Recreation Center, Scudley and Twenty-second streets; Horace Wells Sellers, \$7,500, architectural work at the Cohocksink Recreation Center; Thomas, Martin & Kilpatrick, \$4,500, architectural work at the Kensington Recreation Center; Walter T. Karcher and Livingston Smith, \$6,500, architectural work at the Charles Seger Playground.

TWO LADS STILL MISSING

No Trace Found of Joseph and Francis Lacey, 6 and 8

No trace has been found of Joseph and Francis Lacey, six and eight years old, respectively, who disappeared Monday from their home, 1831 Pennsylvania avenue.

Their mother, Mrs. Mary A. Lacey, is ill because of worry over their disappearance. This is the third time that the boys have left home, according to the mother, but they never stayed away more than one night.

They vanished after attending the morning session of the Cathedral School, Eighteenth and Wood streets, and are believed to have straggled for the center of the city in search of Santa Claus.

On the Sick List

Miss Schumann-Helk — Suffering with pneumonia at home on Long Island. Improved last night, but is still dangerously ill.

H. H. Woolworth — Five-and-ten-cent man, critically ill at home in London. Son Norman, student at Yale, speeding toward his bedside.

Mr. George Harvey — Wife of American Ambassador, recovering from bronchial attack in London.

Justice Justice Pitney, United States Supreme Court, gravely ill several months with complications. He is expected to retire soon.

Reported Missing

William Bova, twenty-nine years old, 6785 Glenlock street, five feet ten inches, 165 pounds, dark complexion, black hair.

Catharine Becker, thirty-two years old, 5436 Chester avenue, five feet, 110 pounds, blond hair, fair complexion, wearing a pink waist, black skirt, black stockings, low shoes, black hat trimmed with beads.

Mr. George Rice, twenty-two years old, 1209 E. Street, light brown hair, dark eyes, five feet four inches, 170 pounds, wearing a black coat trimmed with fur. May use the name of Doris Donald.

Charles Pesant, thirteen years old, 2404 Division street, five feet, ninety-five pounds, blue eyes, blonde hair, dark complexion, wearing a brown two-piece suit, black stockings, brown shoes, brown mixed cap; has crippled right arm.

Michael Butler, forty-five years old, 2210 Germantown avenue, five feet four inches, 141 pounds, fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, wearing a dark coat, brown trousers, striped shirt, black stockings and brown shoes; he is crippled, carrying a cane and a crutch.

Brown street, ten years old, 1925 Brown street, three feet six inches, eighty pounds, light complexion, sandy hair, blue eyes, wearing a dark coat, hat, pants, dark overcoat, dark hat and light shirt.

Vera Madich, fifteen years old, 347 Master street, dark complexion, dark brown hair, five feet two inches, 110 pounds, wearing a dark blue dress, brown coat, black slippers and stockings, no hat.

Elmer Slater, twenty-three years old, 125 North Second street, five feet seven inches, 150 pounds, dark eyes and hair, wearing a black overcoat, blue pin-stripe suit, cap and black shoes.

James Myers, twelve years old, 1141 Fitzgerald street, dark complexion and hair, wearing corduroy pants, dark mackinaw coat, with patch on the sleeve at the elbow.

Francis Lacey, six years old, and Joseph Lacey, eight years old, 1831 Pennsylvania avenue. They are wearing a blue plaid jacket, corduroy pants, a blue plaid hat and brown stockings. Joseph wears a black blouse, black pants and coat.

Daniel Martin, eleven years old, 1440 North Fifty-sixth street, dark complexion and hair, gray eyes, wearing a gray wool suit, tan shoes and brown stockings.

Otis Nandes, Italian, thirty-five years old, 2114 Avondale street, five feet, 126 pounds, blue eyes, black hair, wearing a blue suit and a brown felt hat.

Ray A. Burns, twenty-two years old, 2220 Snyder avenue, five feet eight inches, 140 pounds, light complexion, own hair, blue eyes, wearing a light brown overcoat, gray suit, striped shirt and black overalls; has silver ring bearing his initials; wears glasses.

Madeline Rodgers Shields, thirty-five years old, 3934 North Eighteenth street, occupied in her night clothes.

\$1800 CLERK GETS \$1200 FOR 10-DAY ELECTION JOB

Solomon Rains for Eighteen Years Kept Secret for Fear He Wouldn't Get Salary Rise—Counting Votes Cost City \$8432.28

Counting the Philadelphia votes in the last election cost the city \$8,432.28, and the mandamus directing the city to pay that amount disclosed that a clerk in the office of the Prothonotary, who works all year for a salary of \$1800, received \$1200 for his ten-day job as "superintendent of the election."

The man is Solomon Rains, and each year for the last eighteen he has had this little melon handed him, and has managed to keep the secret from many of his fellow-employees, who believed he did the work for nothing.

When the clerk in the filing room at the Prothonotary's office was asked for the copy of the mandamus ordering the money paid for the election count, the clerk said Rains had the papers.

"I keep it locked up because I don't want the people to know what I get," said Rains. "I'm trying to get a raise in salary and if they know I got this money it will be harder to get the increase."

Then he started out for the mandamus papers. They were in his private locker in a courtroom on the second floor.

"For eighteen years I've had this job," Rains said. "For thirty-seven years I have been in the Prothonotary's office and I always refused promotion because if I got promoted then I can't be superintendent of elections any more. In twenty-five years I haven't had an increase in pay."

Besides the sum which goes to Rains for his work as "superintendent of election," four "computers" receive \$250 each, twenty-seven clerks \$150 each, fifteen "court officers" \$75 each; six less highly skilled "court officers" \$10 each; thirteen men for "receiving ballot boxes" \$10 each; two "messengers" \$25 each and a miscellaneous expense bill for the balance, including \$760 for "printing."

Rains was asked if he kept the mandamus records out of the file for the whole eighteen years in which he has gotten this annual \$1200 job of "superintending" the election count. He answered that he usually kept them out for four or five months and then slipped them back in the box after curiosity and interest had dwindled.

Radical Vote Plan Blow at Executive

Abolition of Electoral College Would Greatly Diminish His Influence

PROGRESSIVES FORCE ISSUE

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger

Washington, Dec. 6.—The Norris amendment to the Federal Constitution, agreed to by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, to abolish the Electoral College and call Congress into session on January 1, following its election, would be a great step toward further democratizing the Government of the United States.

It would greatly strengthen the power of Congress, if the present tendency toward the breakup of parties into blocs should go on.

The Progressives have raised unexpectedly an issue on which they can get Harding for support. President Harding sharpened it when it was made known that he was opposed to the constitutional change. He will not emphasize it if he fails to call the new Congress into special session next spring.

The proposal is in harmony with all the various progressive efforts toward democratizing our Government, such as direct primaries and the direct election of Senators.

Changes Apparently Technical

The changes proposed on their face seem technical and to correspond in their most important respects to changes that have already taken place in practice. The Electoral College has ceased to function as it was intended that it should. It has long been regarded as obsolete and the public mind has been prepared for its abolition.

Presidents have for several years found it necessary to call newly elected Congresses into special session as soon as possible, because the date for the meeting of new Congresses from the spring, when they are usually called, to January 1.

All that seems of no great importance and the change with respect to the date of assembling Congress has the support of conservatives like Senators Pepper and Brandegee. It at least seems likely to be accepted.

Actually the proposal to abolish the Electoral College, although the institution is obsolete, promises to be the more important of the two in its practical effect.

Garage Fire Put Out Quickly

A fire which started in the garage of J. Frank, 1114 Germantown avenue, this morning, caused slight damage. An alarm was turned in but the blaze was put out before arrival of the firemen.

Motorcyclist Injured

When his motorcycle collided with an automobile at Sixty-fourth street and Wynnefield avenue, Walter Higgins, of 2908 North Twelfth street, was thrown and his leg was broken. Edward Smith, 810 Sharwood street, who was driving the automobile, took the injured man to the West Philadelphia Hospital and then surrendered to the police.

Making Friends by Leaps and Bounds

Perry & Co. is making friends by leaps and bounds. The Super-Value Policy of this big, progressive store, our wonderful selection of only fine, finer and our courteous, efficient salesmen, are each day swelling the great and growing army of enthusiastic Perry Boosters.

Our New Overcoat Salesroom

Contains by far the largest and most complete assortment of really choice creations in Overcoats in this city.

Clothing of the ordinary type has no appeal to us—we have built a tremendous business by our policy of catering to discriminating buyers—men who know good clothing and will take nothing else.

In the development of this growing business, we have found it necessary to give greatly increased space to our clothing department—hence, our recently enlarged facilities.

On our second floor salesroom will be found all the worthwhile styles in Overcoats for this season. All models are of the newest and most highly favored types in slip-ons, single and double breasted styles and Chesterfields. Ulsters, half belts and with belt all around. Plain shoulders and Raglans.

They are made of Imported and Domestic Beavers, Shetlands, Chinchillas, Elysians, Irish and Scotch Cheviots in a wide variety of colors in rich tones of browns, tans, grays and Lovett. Many have plaid backs in original designs and colors. There are hard-faced fabrics for the man who wants something durable and serviceable, and also soft, fleecy, warmth-without-weight fabrics that lend themselves well to tailoring and that appeal to one's sense of luxury.

With General Winter and his icy cohorts laying siege to the city— How about some warm Winter wearables! Rogers Peet clothes exclusively, including plenty of ulsters and Winter-weight Scotch Mists. Prices precisely the same as in Rogers Peet's own stores in New York.

Rugs Make Fine Gifts

All sizes, styles and fabrics, at guaranteed lowest prices. No seconds or mill ends. Only standard highest-grade goods.

27-54-inch Wilton	\$5.75 to \$8.50
36-63-inch Wilton	6.75 to 10.50
27-54-inch Axminster	3.25 to 5.75
36-63-inch Axminster	5.50 to 8.50
7-6-9-foot Velvet	26.50
6-6-foot Axminster	18.00 to 28.00
8-3-10-6-foot Wilton	59.00 to 81.00
9-12-foot Brussels Rag	22.50 to 33.50
6-6-foot Colonial Rag	3.75 to 5.50
24-48-inch Chenille Bath	3.90
4-8-7-6-foot Wilton	25.00 to 35.00

FERRO & COMPANY

Rogers Peet Clothes Exclusively

Chestnut St. at Juniper

HENRY LINDE

23d Street, Columbia and Ridge Avenues

THREE WOMEN BURIED IN OIL EXPLOSION

Daughter Forgets Own Name in Attempt to Save Mother

Three women were seriously burned and dozens of chickens and pigeons perished when fire caused by an exploding oil stove destroyed the dwelling in the rear of 2705 Wheatland lane and a stable adjoining last evening. Several horses were rescued by firemen.

The women were in the kitchen of the home of Mrs. Anna Eichler, who was preparing dinner when the stove exploded and covered them with burning oil. The injured, who were moved to the Northeastern Hospital, are:

Mrs. Anna Eichler, sixty-eight years; severe burns of the head and body.

Edna Eichler, her daughter; burns of face and hands.

Mrs. Anna Mohhouse, seventy years; severe burns of head and body.

Mrs. Eichler was at the stove cooking the meal and her daughter and Mrs. Mohhouse, who lives with them, were talking with her when the stove exploded.

D. S. M. AWARD TO SURGEON

Colonel J. P. Hutchinson, of Philadelphia, Cited for Work in France

Announcement of the bestowal of the Distinguished Service Medal on Colonel J. P. Hutchinson, Medical Corps, United States Army, of 133 South Twenty-second street, was made yesterday in Washington by the War Department.

The citation accompanying the announcement reads:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services, as commanding officer, American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 1, American Expeditionary Forces, he displayed exceptional ability in the organization and administration of that unit.

"By his devotion to duty, untiring energy coupled with professional attainments of a high order, he rendered services of inestimable value in a position of great responsibility, in the alleviation of the sufferings of our sick and wounded."

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First Penny Savings Bank

4 1/2% 2nd & Bankbridge St.

4 1/4% 1543 Chestnut St.

Interest

PRECISELY CORRECT TUXEDO COAT & TROUSERS

BAILEY BANKS & BIDDLE CO.

JEWELERS SILVERSMITHS STATUERS

PEARLS PEARL NECKLACES JEWELS

A reputation for Quality established almost a century ago

Closing hour 5.30 until Christmas

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JACOB REED'S SONS

1424-26 CHESTNUT STREET

Priced \$30 to \$95

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Mitchell's

Established 1878

Diamond Store